

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel pending claims 1-23 and enter re-presented claims 24-46
and new claims 47-50.

Claims 1-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Re-presented – formerly claim 1) A surface-traversing vehicle comprising a plurality of bodies, at least one moving device for moving at least one pair of adjacent said bodies towards and away from each other, a plurality of bristle-carrying members mounted on each of at least two of said plurality of bodies, a plurality of resilient bristles mounted to each said bristle-carrying member, wherein each said bristle-carrying member is adapted to be moved in a respective first direction away from the corresponding said body and a respective second direction towards the corresponding said body, and at least one fluid pressure device for moving said bristle carrying members in the respective first and/or second direction thereof relative to the corresponding said body, wherein said moving device is adapted to cause said vehicle to traverse a surface by moving at least one pair of adjacent said bodies towards and away from each other when a plurality of said bristles of said body are in engagement with the surface to support the vehicle.

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25. (Re-presented – formerly claim 2) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, wherein said interconnected bodies are substantially flat or are rotationally symmetrical.

26. (Re-presented – formerly claim 3) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, wherein said interconnected bodies are substantially cylindrical and said bristles extend substantially radially outwardly or inwardly of the corresponding said body.

27. (Re-presented – formerly claim 4) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 25, wherein alternate bristles or groups of bristles around said bodies are inclined to a small extent in alternate directions in the rotational direction of said bodies.

28. (Re-presented – formerly claim 5) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, wherein said bristle-carrying members combine to substantially cover a surface of the corresponding said body at one limit of the movement thereof relative to said body.

29. (Re-presented – formerly claim 6) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 28, wherein said bristle-carrying members each form one angular segment of the surface of a substantially cylindrical body.

30. (Re-presented – formerly claim 7) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, wherein the movement of said bristle-carrying members is guided by slots, guide channels, apertures or bores in the corresponding said body or by radial pins upon the corresponding said body.

31. (Re-presented – formerly claim 8) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, wherein at least one of said at least one fluid pressure device comprises a membrane in contact with the inner faces of the corresponding said bristle-carrying members.

32. (Re-presented – formerly claim 9) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, wherein at least one of said at least one fluid pressure device comprises a plurality of pistons arranged to slide in fluid-tight bores within the associated body.

33. (Re-presented – formerly claim 10) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 32, wherein said bristle-carrying members are themselves in the form of said pistons.

34. (Re-presented – formerly claim 11) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, further comprising at least one resilient member tending to resist movement of a respective said bristle-carrying member relative to the corresponding said body.

35. (Re-presented – formerly claim 12) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 34, wherein said at least one resilient member comprises one or more springs.

36. (Re-presented – formerly claim 13) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, further comprising one or more sensors to monitor the characteristics of the surface ahead of the vehicle.

37. (Re-presented – formerly claim 14) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, wherein said resilient bristles are natural bristles or formed of a synthetic polymeric material or of a metal.

38. (Re-presented – formerly claim 15) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 37, wherein said resilient bristles are of steel.

39. (Re-presented – formerly claim 16) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, wherein at least one of said at least one moving device is adapted to use electrical power.

40. (Re-presented – formerly claim 17) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, wherein at least one of said at least one moving device is adapted to use fluid pressure.

41. (Re-presented – formerly claim 18) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 40, wherein a plurality of said bodies are linked by at least one hydraulic or pneumatic cylinder.

42. (Re-presented – formerly claim 19) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, wherein said bodies are further supported by one or more wheels, located upon said bodies or upon the links between them or upon one or more of the bristle-carrying members.

43. (Re-presented – formerly claim 20) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 24, comprising three or more said bodies.

44. (Re-presented – formerly claim 21) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 43, wherein the bodies are coupled together in pairs, the two bodies in each pair being at a fixed distance apart.

45. (Re-presented – formerly claim 22) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 44, further comprising at least one control device to effect automatically relative movement of the bodies.

46. (Re-presented – formerly claim 23) A surface-traversing vehicle according to Claim 44, adapted to be operated from a remote position via an umbilical line towed by a similar towing vehicle.

β¹ 47. (New) A self-propelled surface-traversing vehicle, comprising at least a first body and a second body, said first and second bodies being operatively-connected and each comprising at least one bristle-carrying member having a plurality of resilient bristles, wherein said vehicle can be propelled along a surface by movement of said first and second bodies towards and away from each other when a plurality of said bristles are engaged with the surface, at least said first body further comprising a hydraulic or pneumatic moving mechanism for radially moving at least one of said bristle-carrying members with respect to said first body.

48. (New) The surface-traversing vehicle of claim 47, wherein said second body further comprises a hydraulic or pneumatic moving mechanism for radially moving at least one of said bristle-carrying members with respect to said first body.

49. (New) The surface-traversing vehicle of claim 47, wherein said moving mechanism is pneumatic.

50. (New) The surface-traversing vehicle of claim 48, wherein said moving mechanism is pneumatic.

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